

**PTSA General Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2011
WHS Media Center**



WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Introduced board members –
Need another MCCPTA delegate – once a month meeting –
Membership – 46 members added at Back To School Night, 10 tonight; (FYI: school has 1233 students)

REVIEW OF BY-LAWS

Nominated for approval, seconded, passed

TREASURY REPORT

General Budget reviewed briefly - \$1800 forward from last year – hoping to get 100 members - \$500; want to make \$1000 on fall fundraiser and mulch sale of \$1000; \$900 for staff appreciation; overhead, teacher support, insurance, etc...

Decision on student directory – outstanding

Translated in Spanish for members

Questions:

- This budget has nothing to do with Post-Prom money; PTSA helps by having a committee and offers use of checking account, but money is managed separately; Post-Prom budget is as much as can be raised – has been as little as \$4000;
- What are examples of “academic support” provided by PTSA funds – have never had enough money to do a lot;
- What specific needs does the school have? Mr Lowndes will ask teachers

Nominated for approval of budget, seconded, passed

POST-PROM UPDATE

- Post prom is after prom; senior prom is scheduled for Friday June 1st
- Idea is (est in 1992) to have something constructive to do after the prom; come to a location and have food, games, prizes, keep them busy – until 5am; Since it began, tragedies have gone down across the county;
- PTA shows support by helping to plan and fundraise; involve senior class heavily but look to other students and parents to step up and help so that when your child is a senior they enjoy an evening without their parents
- Oct 1st car wash and bake sale as first fundraiser – students can earn SSL hours – need food and bodies
- Oct 13th 12th grade parent night – graduation, prom, post-prom, etc
- Circulated form for emails to keep people informed; need someone to make phone calls, someone bi-lingual is very helpful, will send info to current listserv and update website
- Kristen and Mary Anne available later for questions

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Brochures coming in on Friday – coming home on Monday – ConnectED, plus email attachment of flyer to come out; all info in the letter;

NEW CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Approval for two buildings – Wheaton High at former of Dalewood and Randolph and Edison High to be by tennis courts; Students stay on sight during entire construction; once Wheaton is built, students are moved and then Edison will be built;

Guest Speaker: **Dennis Cross** – project mgr for project and site –

Schedule is 5 years – design and construction – longer than “normal” as it is two HS;

- Beginning schematic design process; Scheduling 6-8 meetings culminating in community presentation;
- Meetings designed to be inclusive; community, staff, MCPS, all involved in process; Facility Advisory Committee;
- Different from recent approach because the schools will meet separately, with meetings rotating afternoon and evening to allow opportunity for all participation;
 - Need three people to go to other school’s meetings to provide feedback; likely to start in 4-6 weeks;
 - Design/ development/construction documents will last two years;
 - construction for Wheaton – 2 years, move in;
 - demolish part/all of Wheaton, leaving only old Edison where kids are and
 - begin Edison – 2 years to complete –
 - demolish old Edison and construct new athletic fields – one year;
- Can look at website to see schedule of project; can go through PTSA website;

Questions:

1. What about parking? To be decided by school, but in other places there is no student parking; Kevin – working with Glenmont Pool to use their parking during school year and vice versa during the summer;
2. Construction goals? Go to division of construction website through MCPS to see presentations, meeting minutes, goals, etc.
3. Given engineering academy will there be a link to construction? – architect committed to involve engineering students and trade students from Edison to participate in construction;
4. What about sports during construction? Football and baseball impacted;
 - a. For football - hope to partner with Blair for home games, practices continue outside school property;
 - b. For baseball - looking for agreement with Wheaton Park and hopefully for others for practices; has been worked out at other schools – will be worked out here
5. Will there be a size change incorporated in planning of school? Yes... rooms will be larger, hallways larger – if the population stays the same, building will be much larger; labs take more space; can see design on the website
6. Isn’t there opportunity to gain synergy from the previous designs? Will it really take 2 years? Why so long? We will take advantage but won’t make much difference -
7. What kinds of ways can people provide input during process? Community can participate – interaction – utilize facility..input to those areas, make suggestions regarding labs, shapes of grounds and court yards;
8. Is there a LEAD target? Yes - shooting for Silver LEAD certification; most have been certified Gold but things keep changing so...life cycle cost savings...

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

Introduced Nicole Sosik – principal intern

- Came from Richard Montgomery (5 years) – experience with construction and magnet background; can offer lessons learned;
- Taking lead in working with magnet programs – crunch time, marketing of program for upcoming 9th graders; don't get funding and staffing for time spent now; Back To School Nights to show and market,

New Magnet Programs coming to Wheaton

- Oct 3rd Open House for magnet here, brochure on website, application only, through submitting grades, recommendations, testing; apps to Nov 7th ; Dec testing, Jan selection committee; 50 slots; hoping can go back to board and ask for more... beginning in DCC;
 - Academies will stay in place, maintained as choice... curriculum nearly identical;
 - Cohort of kids that will go through set of classes, while academy kids have a bit more flexibility; want to expand number of top classes we are offering;
 - brings staffing for coordinator and staffing for additional courses

Questions/Comments:

1. What if freshman now? Unfortunately only for upcoming 9th graders – hopefully new courses will be made available. Montgomery College offerings as part of current curriculum as well as in magnet;
2. Accurate information is not out in the marketplace – people don't know about current engineering program offerings;
3. What is happening with additional math course? totally separate – working with UMD to offer engineering math – want to offer a college math course geared toward engineering students;

Change in Attendance Policy

- Changes made to attendance policy – not going through it now, was clarified at Back To School Night.
- Kids are getting to class on time and showing up consistency....
- Mandatory support during lunch – Tues and Friday; have closed recreational areas on those days....
- What about straight A students? – can get enrichment, get organized, do their homework, go to lab, do something to get ahead,
- Edline should be up and running smoothly now

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/CONCERNS:

- Son concerned about lunch time support – less time to get his lunch;
- Comment on eligibility – 2.0 – ability to participate in extra things;
- Suspensions down from this time last year
- Crime in area down; gang related incidences down in area;
- Still doing literacy program – using vocabulary words – make sure students understand the gateway words;
- Relationship building – school wide focus;
- Shift in discipline structure... designed to get administrators out into classrooms
 - now done by days – instead of by grade;
 - allows other administrators to be available for classroom work and discipline is addressed quicker by having a dedicated person;
 - phone calls will come from variety of people